Dear:

I think there are many things that must be taken into consideration when attempting to understand the effects of an increase in the minimum wage as proposed by the Administration. In the first place, one has to consider the number of jobs that would be destroyed by any such increase. Frankly, I cannot see how an increase in minimum wages could possibly result in an increase in employment. On the contrary, if a worker is not worth a minimum wage now in effect then certainly he would not be worth a higher hourly rate.

Furthermore, I think we have to consider the expanding coverage and the effect this would have on small business. I can see where possibly a large concern could make some adjustment for increases in wages, but I think the adjustment would take the form of increased automation so as to reduce the total labor costs. However, I cannot see how a small employer could possibly accommodate himself to any increase in wages on the scale proposed in this legislation.

This will have good attention and we will do the best we can.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen